

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 18-23, 25-28, and 39-49 constitute the pending claims in the present application. Applicants hereby cancel, without prejudice, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 18-21, 23, 25, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, and 49. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks. Issues raised by the Examiner will be addressed below in the order they appear in the prior Office Action.

1. Applicants reiterate the arguments of record and maintain that the application enables the full scope of the previously pending claims. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution of claims directed to commercially relevant subject matter, Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations. Applicants' amendments are not in acquiescence to the rejection, and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims of similar or differing scope. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.
2. Applicants note with appreciation that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) has been withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendments.

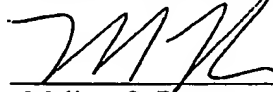
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Should an extension of time be required, Applicants hereby petition for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this submission be charged to **Deposit Account No. 18-1945**.

Date: October 24, 2003

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Respectfully Submitted,



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